



**Chicora Foundation, Inc.**  
PO Box 8664, Columbia, SC 29202

September 2010



# Monumental Issues

## Conserving Florida's Pyramids

Most folks don't think of Florida when "pyramid" is mentioned. But hidden in St. Augustine are a unique treasure — and one that we were fortunate to be involved in treating.

Chicora was selected the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct conservation treatments of the Dade Pyramids at the St. Augustine Na-



**The hard mortar was cut out in preparation of repointing using a soft lime putty mortar.**

sary to repair the monuments, infilling areas that had been lost to erosion or vandalism over the years.

At the conclusion of the project, Chicora provided the VA with a maintenance plan for the monuments that will help them re-

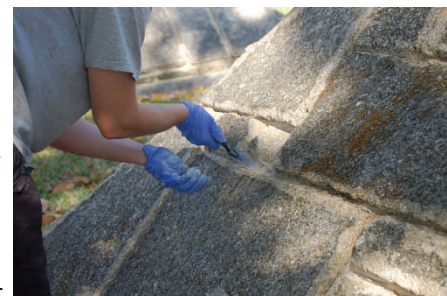
who died during the Second Seminole War.

Over the years the monuments saw various repair efforts, often using very hard Portland cement mortar that is damaging the soft stone.

Treatment therefore included not only cleaning the monuments, but also re-

moving this hard mortar. Because the coquina is so soft, we chose to use lime putty. This materials very closely matches the hardness of the coquina.

It was also neces-



**Lime putty being placed in the cleaned joints.**

main in good condition for future generations.



**Southern pyramid (#3) after treatment was completed.**



**Coquina pyramids before treatment.**

tional Cemetery. This work was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Dade Pyramids were constructed in 1842 and represent the oldest memorial receiving funding under the Recovery Act. The three pyramids are constructed of coquina — a soft stone of fossilized shells — and cover the remains of soldiers

### Inside this issue:

- Conserving Florida's Pyramids **1**
- Old Athens Cemetery Has Its Fence Repaired **2**
- Get Ready for the ACPA Cemetery Conference **2**
- Does Your Cemetery Have a Disaster Plan? **2**

### Upcoming Talks & Workshops

- November 6, 2010—9th Annual Cemetery Preservation Workshop, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance. For more information contact Mr. Ted Urquhart at ted. urquhart@cox.net.
- March 26, 2011—Cemetery Preservation for Churches. A 1-day workshop. For information contact Mr. Brian McKown, bryan@scdah.state.sc.us.
- April 12-14, 2011 — Cemetery Preservation: Making Good Choices (3 day workshop) in Columbia, SC. Contact NPI at info@npi.org for more information.

## Old Athens Cemetery Has Its Fence Repaired



**These before and after photos show the extraordinary difference appropriate repair techniques can make.**

We have been fortunate to be involved in a multi-year project with the University of Georgia Physical Plant to restore the Old Athens Cemetery, located on the campus.

Recently, in conjunction with Columbia metal worker Clive Lugmayer, we repaired one of the cemetery's fences. Fronting on Jackson Street, the fence had been removed for several years, waiting for funding.

This year Clive Lugmayer painstakingly evaluated each panel in preparation of repair efforts.

Using both gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW) and shielded metal arc welding (SMAW), individual panels were repaired. NiRod Ni-99, silicon-bronze wire, and stainless steel wire were all used in for different repairs.

Where panels were missing, ghost sections were created to provide support and stability to the fence. No effort, however, was made to replicate lost historic fabric.

The fence was replaced on the original granite blocks. Where

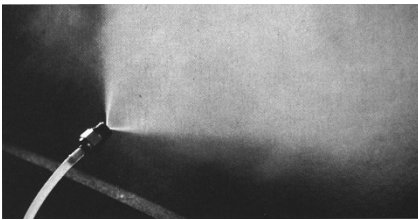
iron jacking had caused loss of stone, a Jahn repair mortar was used to provide infill. The granite was core drilled to allow new stainless steel tie rods to be set.

When completed, the University of Georgia Paint Shop completed the work by providing a



new, fresh coat of paint!

## Get Ready for the ACPA Cemetery Conference!



**Using a very fine water mist that cycles on and off, many badly soiled stones can be cleaned without any harsh chemicals.**

The Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance is holding its 9th Annual Cemetery Preservation Workshop on November 6 in Montgomery.

Chicora's Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley are invited speakers. In the morning they will be providing a series of mini-workshops on Preser-

vation Planning, Conservation Ethics and Safety, and Maintenance in More Than Mowing the Grass — three of our favorite topics!

In the afternoon Dr. Trinkley will be offering a hands-on workshop tackling graffiti using new products such as the masonRE Paint Removers S-303 and 305. He will also be

demonstrating some alternative cleaning techniques, such as water misting.

For more information contact Mr. Ted Urquhart at [ted.urquhart@cox.net](mailto:ted.urquhart@cox.net) or visit the ACPA website, <http://www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com>.

## Does *Your* Cemetery Have a Disaster Plan?



**Hurricanes and tornadoes are among the most devastating disasters that can occur in a cemetery. Are you prepared?**

Disasters include flooding (hurricanes, rivers, even burst water mains), tornadoes and wind storms, and vandalism. Each can cause extraordinary damage to monuments, landscape, records, and the human remains.

While we can't control hurricanes or tornadoes, we can ensure that the cemetery drains are cleaned and trees are prune

prior to bad weather. We can't stop vandals, but we can harden targets by ensuring our stones are well set. We can't prevent graffiti, but we can make certain that our cemetery is routinely patrolled, so that damage is found immediately.

If you'd like more information about preparing a disaster plan for your

cemetery, visit the Chicora webpage, <http://www.chicora.org/disaster-planning.html>.

